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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,834	03/22/2004	David L. Hall	APC-10302/03	1501
25006	7590	02/03/2006		
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE & CITKOWSKI, P.C PO BOX 7021 TROY, MI 48007-7021			EXAMINER BOCHNA, DAVID	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	
DATE MAILED: 02/03/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 2, 4, 9 and 19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12/27/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 16-18, 20-21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas, Jr.

In regard to claim 16, Thomas, Jr. discloses a duct detector housing comprising:

a box 14 having a front face, a side and a rear face adapted to receive a detector therein, said box having a slotted sleeve 1, said slotted sleeve having a bore adapted to receive a tubular conduit having a protruding conduit tab;

a conduit retainer 4 overlying each of said plurality of slotted sleeves; and
a cover sealing against the front face of the box 14. Thomas, Jr. discloses one slotted sleeve, and not a plurality. However, it would have been obvious to add additional sleeves 1 to the box because duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

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In regard to claim 17, wherein said plurality of sleeves 1 are integral to said box (The term "integral" does not require a unitary one-piece structure. In re Kohno, 391 F.2d 959, 157 USPQ 275 (CCPA 1968); In re Larson, 340 F.2d 965, 144 USPQ 347 (CCPA 1965).

In regard to claim 18, wherein each of said plurality of sleeves 1 has a notch (11 in fig. 3) capable of receiving the protruding tab of the tubular conduit.

In regard to claim 20, wherein said conduit retainer 4 is affixed to said first sleeve.

In regard to claim 21, wherein the conduit retainer 4 is threadably affixed to said first sleeve 1.

In regard to claims 24 and 25, Campbell does not disclose that the box 14 is made out of a thermoplastic, or that the cover is transparent. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the box and cover out of the recited materials because the selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 10-15 are allowed.
5. Claims 22 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

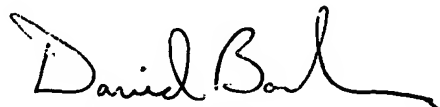
Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Smid, Campbell, Metcalf, Jr., and Gillespie all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David E. Bochna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679